



The Resonator

Official Newsletter of The Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club

Volume 4, Number 10

www.FairLawnARC.org

October 2019

From The President:

To FLARC members:

Before you know it, it's Autumn. While the Summer hasn't been dull, the new season brings with it lots of activities that make us an even better club.

Street Fair is October 20 and Ed WX2R can always use volunteers.

The Great FLARC Auction is November 29th and it's all hands on deck to make the close of 2019 a profitable one for the club.

In the meantime we have election of officers and some key bylaw changes -- so make sure that you read the document inside the newsletter. Elections are held at the annual meeting on December 6th but nominations and discussion will be held at the November business meeting.

And... it's time to renew your membership. Between now and the end of the year, get your dues in and help continue to make this club among the largest in the state and the most exciting around.

Brad - KM2C
FLARC President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	President's Message
1	Member Profile – Joe K2JK
2	FL RACES Corner
3	Club Calendar
36	October Speaker: Larry Makowski W2LJ

Member Profile

NAME: **Joe Lannieur** CALL: **K2JK**

What do you do/what did you do for a living?

I was involved in computer programming and networking . Prior to that I was a chemist. I was self-employed for nearly all of my career.

How did you first get interested in ham radio?

Like many hams, I was introduced to the hobby by a teacher. That was in 1965 by Tom W2MVA.

My first call was KB2YAM many years ago.

What parts of the hobby most interest you?

I like to DX and I like to do CW. My QSO statistics are fairly constant from year to year: 85% CW, 10% digital and 5% SSB.

What does belonging to FLARC mean to you? How do you/can you better contribute to the club?

I'm part of the FLARC VE team and have been a VE for about nine years. I also help to do the testing at BARA. I like the satisfaction of helping those to get their licenses and I'm available to mentor any new operators who are serious about ham radio.

What should be the club's priorities in the next year?

- Instructing those newly licensed in proper operating procedure
- If the club wants to have a strong contest presence, a team of experienced operators should be recruited for that purpose

Continued on page 4.

The Club Fair Lawn ARC is the fastest growing ham club around, with five operating positions in a permanent clubhouse. Visitors and guests are always welcome. The club is open every Friday night from NLT 6:30 PM. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30PM.

Fair Lawn RACES/ARES Corner



2019 Officers, Committees and Assignments

President	Brad Kerber	KM2C
Vice President	Lowell Van't Slot	W2DLT
Treasurer	Al Rasmussen	WA2OWL
Secretary	Randy Smith	WU2S
Trustee	Skip Barker	KD2BRV
Trustee	Don Cassarini	N2PRT
Field Day	Steve Wraga	WA2BYX
Member Services	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Publicity	Ed Efchak	WX2R
Publicity	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Publicity	Susan Frank	W6SKT
Program	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
Publicity	Karl Frank	W2KBF
Publicity	Brad Kerber (ex officio)	KM2C
Social Media	Dave Marotti	NK2Q
Video/YouTube	Thom Guida	W2NZ
VE Liaison	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
VE Liaison	Pete Senesi	KD2BMX
Education	Gordon Beattie	W2TTT
Education	Randy Smith	WU2S
Education	John L. Howard	K2JLH
Education	Fred Wawra	W2ABE
History	Fred Belghaus	W2AAB
Health and Welfare	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Photographer	Don Cassarini	N2PRT
W2NPT Trustee	Paul Cornett	W2IP
Technical	Paul Cornett	W2IP
Technical	Randy Smith	WU2S
Technical	Fred Wawra	W2ABE
RACES Director	Dave Gotlib	KD2MOB
RACES Liaison	Steve Wraga	WA2BYX
Newsletter Editor	Ed Efchak	WX2R
FL Town Liaison	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Net Scheduler	Brian Cirulnick	KD2KLN
Quartermaster	Brian Cirulnick	KD2KLN

Fall is here and the temperature is just starting to get cooler. As soon as you know it, winter will be here with the potential for hazardous conditions. The FL-ARES members are preparing for emergency communications when necessary. Of course, this takes training and experience from our membership which currently numbers more than a dozen. We are fortunate to make Fair Lawn and the surrounding communities our home. With our leadership and support from the FLARC we can grow and be of assistance in many community events.

Our weekly KB2FLA nets have become more than just communication nets. One Wednesday per month (usually the 3rd Wednesday) Randy WU2S hosts a video net demonstration which covers various types of communication operations. Randy WU2S is an educator and has a wealth of knowledge we can all learn from.

On September 24th the National Weather Service (NWS) sponsored SKYWARN training at the Passaic County Public Safety Academy and I am pleased to say, we had a nice turnout. Several of the FL-ARES members are now weather spotters and are trained to contact the NWS with details if there's spotter activation during a storm.

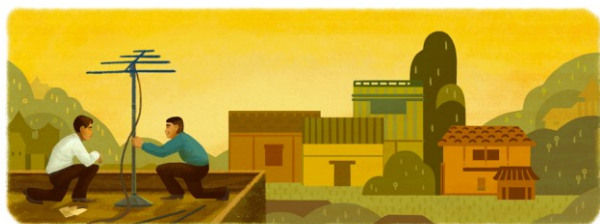
We are also able to contact the BC-SKYWARN repeater if it's activated during a storm. Thank you to the FL-ARES members for attending the SKYWARN Training.

Continued on page 35.

MASTER EVENT CALENDAR

October 18, 2019	Larry Makoski W 2 L J "You, QRP and the Great Outdoors"
October 19, 2019	Visit to iHeart Radio
October 20, 2019	Fair Lawn Street Fair (River Road)
November 15, 2019	George Sabbi KB2GJG "SKYWARN For Today"
November 29, 2019	FLARC AUCTION - Fair Lawn Senior Center
December 6, 2019	FLARC Annual Meeting and Holiday Party - Fair Lawn Senior Center
December 13, 2019	Ria Jairam N2RJ "An Update On The ARRL Hudson Division"***
January 17, 2020	Florencia Pierri KD2PHZ "The First Mass Audience Radio Broadcast"
January 25-26, 2020	Winter Field Day (TBD)
February 21, 2020	Ed Efchak WX2R "The 2020 FLARC Member Survey" - at the club.
March 20, 2020	Howard Michel WB2ITX ARRL CEO "The ARRL Today" - Senior Center
April 17, 2020	Rich Moseson W2VU "75 Years of CQ Magazine" - Senior Center

**** 2nd Friday of month**



Hidetsugu Yagi's 130th Birthday Google Doodle

Follow FLARC ON THE WEB

Facebook: <http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>

Twitter: @FairLawnARC

Blog: <http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>

Youtube: <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

Website: <http://FairLawnARC.org>

FLARC VEC Exams

Our next test sessions are scheduled for **Saturday, October 26th** beginning at 09:00 at the Community Center. No advanced registration is required but always appreciated. The fee is \$15.00 (cash or check).

Please bring positive identification (license, passport, etc.), your original license and a copy, original CSCE and a copy (if credit is needed).

The full exam schedule is on the club calendar at the FairLawnARC.org website. For further information contact VE-Liason@FairLawnARC.org.

Please refer also to the "License Exams" link on the main website--

<http://testing.FairLawnARC.org>

We appreciate your support of the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club!

This is your Club! Be part of it!

Member Profile, continued.

What should be the club's priorities in the next year?

- Give those club members who are serious and experienced DXers (as determined by the DXCC list) to have access to the club's operating stations and
- Get a K4 transceiver and KPA1500 amplifier.

What else can you tell the club about yourself and/or ham radio?

I'm old school which isn't always a good mix with the new generation of "appliance" operators — the reason for my stress on knowledge and good operating practices and knowing the technical aspects of amateur radio.

What other ham related clubs or organizations do you belong to?

BARA, Chestnut Ridge ARC and the ARRL.



Joe K2JK

Please Note: Operating at W2NPT

Starting in January 2019 club trustees have sign-in sheets for all operating positions. There is a clipboard at Operating Position #1, #2 (digital) and #4 with a form on which to sign up for half-hour time slots. No longer first come-first served, in fairness to all who want to use our club equipment and the new antennas. More details to follow.

Get Direct With FLARC!

Here is a direct link to specific club info: just a click away!

<http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://auction.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://calendar.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://events.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://exams.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://testing.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://news.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://swap.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://tech.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

NEW !

<https://groups.io/g/FairLawnARC>



September 2019 Blog Traffic

Ups and downs month over month again for September. A mixed year as posts were down as well this month.

	September 2019	September 2018	Change
Views	599	659	-9%
Visitors	321	353	-10%
Posts	6	9	-33%

There is new content nearly every day so it's really worth the look to both FairLawnARC.org and the blog.

<http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>

When Foxhunting Makes A Difference

On Wednesday, September 18th, a constant carrier (with PL) appeared on the input frequency of the W2AKR 146.790 repeater in Paramus. The steady carrier caused the repeater to time out, taking it off the air.

Bergen County FM Association President Bennet KO2OK called for BCFMA members to investigate. Several hams including Matthew K2NUD, George KC2GLG and Karl W2KBF made on-air signal measurements and compared notes by email.

On Friday Sept. 20 Karl W2KBF used his "foxhunting" equipment to locate the stuck transmitter in Ridgewood. The homeowner was notified, the offending carrier went off the air and the W2AKR repeater was returned to service.

This event illustrates that radio transmitter foxhunting not only is a good sport but also has a practical purpose.

Karl W2KBF

FLARC Helps With A First HF QSO!!

The club received a great note following the NJ QSO Party on September 25, 2019

"Hello, my name is Adam Melancon. I'm from Lafayette, LA and I've been licensed since 2002.

I only just recently got my general license upgrade in 2018. I've spent the last few days bringing an Icom-701 back to life.

I finally got it to transmit, and at 5:45pm CDT my first ever contact on HF was the W2NPT during the New Jersey QSO party.

I just figured I'd drop a line and let you know that you were my first HF contact.

*Thanks for the experience!
73"*

KD5QZG
Adam Melancon
Lafayette, LA

Club Apparel -- Get Them While They're **RED**!

Club apparel is always in vogue. Red is always "in" and your club friends all have them... you *want* a shirt or jacket for the next FLARC event!

Don't forget.... they're easy to order.
Go to www.hamthreads.com
or visit <http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>

Check out the item selection that is posted on the FLARC website (with pictures and prices). Order the shirts or other items you want with either the regular FLARC logo or the still-cool 60th anniversary logo. Note: **RED** is the primary and preferred club standard shirt color.



Ed WX2R debuts a new FLARC hat during Portable Day. Spiffy...yes?

2019 FLARC Speaker Series Locations:

SPEAKERS WHO ARE FLARC MEMBERS:
FLARC CLUBHOUSE

SPEAKERS WHO ARE INVITED GUESTS:
FAIR LAWN SENIOR CENTER



**For The FLARC Auction
November 29th
VOLUNTEER!!**

BEQUEATHS AND DONATIONS

Planned gifts usually imply the family donation of amateur equipment to the club when someone has become a Silent Key. But it can be more. Club members might consider making a gift through a will or trust; gifts that help provide lifetime income to the club. Consult with your lawyer, estate planner or tax advisor if you feel such a gift is worthy.

About The Club

The Resonator is published monthly and is the official (and only) newsletter of The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club. FLARC was established in 1956 and has met continuously since inception. **The club is sponsored by the Borough of Fair Lawn.** The club meets every Friday at 6PM at the club station in The Fair Lawn Community Center, 10-10 20th Street, Fair Lawn, NJ. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30 PM.

Visitors **ARE ALWAYS** welcome at our meetings.

FLARC operates the W2NPT repeater (145.470- PL 167.9) located high atop the Community Center. The analog repeater is open to all amateurs for use without restrictions.

The club has over one hundred paid members. Dues are currently \$25 per year/\$20 for new members.

For more information, please see our website, at <http://membership.FairLawnARC.org>

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Fall Fair Lawn Street Fair Is Coming!!!

Sunday October 20th is the River Road Street Fair and will mark FLARC's fourth consecutive appearance. Although a bit smaller than the Spring Radburn edition, the River Road event pulls in lots of people and gives the club the opportunity to shake babies and kiss hands (or the other way around). The call for volunteers is now!



River Road Street Fair Volunteers

Interested in Chasing DX?

A casual group of FLARCers including Van W2DLT, John KD2NRS, Brad KM2C, Karl W2KBF, Nomar NP4H, Steve WI2W, Jim W2JC, Larry WA2ALY and Fred W2AAB have formed an email group to keep each other in touch in (real) time of when the rare or interesting ones show up to chase. Interested? See or contact Van W2DLT.

Here is a very useful list of upcoming DXpeditions -- <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>



**FAIR LAWN'S
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER!**
With New Antennas On The Roof!



Fall Portable Day



Great weather and great friends made for a perfect Portable Day in early September. Lots of QSOs, two foxhunts, and some experimentation made for the day. A thanks to both BARA and FLARC for another success... and especially to BARA for providing a great lunch. See you in the Spring!



Up goes the mast antenna ...a full crew to do it!



Aly ALØY has his station up and running



Lunch is on as Jim K2ZO acts as chef with Gary N2DVL and Richard K2ZB look on



Jim N2JLF and Randy WU2S get the MESH station underway.



The rabbit and fox meet up afterwards.



Steve W1ZW and Jim N2JLF check up on technical issues

Theoretics Demystified

This month the topic is something we see every day, is in almost every powered device and when its breaks, we have to fix or replace it. The subject is WIRE!

Most wire is copper but in the early days of telephone and telegraph steel was used since it did not stretch too much and was a cheaper alternative but had the habit of breaking due to being flexed and stressed by temperature and wind. In those early days the technology was not available to make that type of wire more malleable. This is why the railroads went to using the tracks as a way of sending signals between stations and the trains themselves. They used American code (using clacky sounders) and later telephones.... so much for train lore.

Today we see power wires, telephone wires, and cable wiring, on poles everywhere. Each kind is different, power wiring is thick to carry the amperage, telephone wiring is very thin, usually 22-24 gauge, and cable wiring is/was coaxial but is being supplanted by fiber optic which is still a kind of wire but is in the visible light spectrum thereby capable of carrying multiple thousands of signals on it's glass 'light wire.'

In our houses solid copper of 14 or 12 gauge wire is used for power distribution within the structure, although stranded wire is generally used for the heavier gauges so it can be bent into curves and routed around the infrastructure. For access cords which plug into outlets, fine stranded wire is used for flexibility.

For communication applications like phone and internet small gauge wiring is used. For internet and computer networks a special four pair wire such as category 5 or 6 with more twists of paired conductors is used. (The signals are a very complex data set that is only understood by the devices and programming). The majority of TV is also digital. For older telephone communication the wiring is small gauge copper using a 48 volt circuit. Newer telephones at home use a modem which talks through the internet and translates the signal into a 48 volt wiring setup like the original telephone circuits in a central office.

Continued in next column ...

Theoretics Demystified

Lastly there is again coaxial cable which is a central conductor suspended in the center of metal 'pipe' either solid but more commonly a flexible braid 'pipe' that gives the central conductors shielding from electrical interference. The electrical characteristics such as impedance (that is electrical resistance at a given frequency), loss and useable frequency limits, are determined by the materials used and the construction thereof. Coax is used in everything from audio to Ultra High Frequency communications.

In my prior life working in communications, there was a special cable used in an intercom system that had two shielded conductors within one jacket. Each conductor had its own shield but one shield was wound clockwise and the other was wound counter clockwise, this was to eliminate crosstalk and interference. Speaking of which, in the old days of multiple pair non shielded intercom wiring where each intercom in a system had its own line selectable in the system, there was a noise factor on the system which was called 'atmospherics.' An example of this was the song 'The Big Hurt' which was recorded over the then transatlantic cable between Britain and the US!

Wire used for power in homes is now almost always copper. Years ago aluminum was used but the problem was that it expands and contracts more than copper and oxidizes -- which leads to poor connections and the potential for fire. Copper also expands and contracts with temperature changes but at a much slower rate. (Metals to us seem solid, but are actually a liquid albeit EXTREMELY slow in flow). This is why all industrial power installations do a periodic temperature survey of all power panels (connections) using an infrared scanner.

It is a good idea to have home distribution panel connections checked and tightened by a qualified electrician if needed. Generally this is not a problem as connectors and splices have been so designed to keep tension on the copper wiring used for installation. Remember to power off any circuits or equipment, be it power tools, radios, control equipment, extension cords that you are working on. A contactless voltage tester is safest to use and can be had at a place like Wayne Electronics, or your local big box store. The best ones are those that you don't have to turn on by pressing anything and run about twenty dollars.

Remember – Safety First!
73, Fred Wawra, W2ABE.

2019 Near and Far Net Check-In's

Now in its third year, the FLARC *Near and Far* net is chugging along each week. Here is list of our check-ins beginning on New Year's Night in no particular order. Mondays at 8PM on the repeater.

Name	Call
Dave	N2AAM
Gene	WO2W
Van	W2DLT
Karl	W2KBF
Stan	KC2K
Ed	WX2R
Steve	WA2BYX
Brian	KD2KLN
Ken	W2KAC
John	K2BIX
Fred	W2AAB
Bob	KD2BKD
Randy	WU2S
Dave	KD2JIP
Larry	KD2QFI
Steve	WI2W
Brad	KM2C
Thom	WN2Z
Ron	KC2TBD
Dave	KD2MOB
Bob	KM4CPU
Bob	KE0OPX
Phil	KA2SEY
Dave	NK2Q
Noel	N2OEL
Ray	KD2RBW
Larry	KD2QFI
Matt	K2FTP
Paul	K2PJC
Tom	WB2KWD
Brian	KD2OAZ
Bob	N2HIP
Al	KC2SAV
Chris	W2TU
Anton	K2PLB
Ray	KD2RIK
Watson	K3WAT
Kevin	KD2RJM
Roger	K2RRB
Jonathan	KC2RRK
Glenn	KB2MDR

2019 Member Profiles

With Volume 4, we begin an new list of featured members in a monthly profile. See past profiles elsewhere in *The Resonator* to check back in the archives to see each featured member's background.

Month	Name	Call Sign
January 2019	Dave	KD2JIP
February	Jim	K2ZO
March	Zach	KC2RSS
April	Bob	N2SU
May	Stan	KC2K
June	Steve	WA2BYX
July	Roger	K2RRB
August	Judith	KC2LTM
September	Chris	W2TU

2019 Near and Far Net Check-Ins (Continued)

Name	Call
Andrew	KC2G
Kenneth	KC2OKR
Kenny	W2KAC
Fred	W2ABE
Judith	KC2LTM
Tyrell	KB2TJK
Glenn	KB2MDR
Dave	N2DEA
Skip	KD2BRV
Dave	WA2SVM

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Past FLARC Member Profiles

Here is a list of past member features and we welcome your recommendations for new profiles -- including your own.

Month	Name	Call Sign
January 2016	Pete	KB2BMX
February	Marco	KC2ZMA
March	Ron	KC2TBD
April	Kai	K2TRW
May	Larry	WA2ALY
June	Dave	N8MAR
July	Steve	WI2W
August	Thom	W2NZ
September	Brian	KD2KLN
October	Brad	KM2C
November	Al	WA2OWL
December	George	W3EH
January 2017	Fred	W2ABE
February	Dave	KD2MOB
March	Randy	WU2S
April	Lee	KD2DRS
May	Gene	WO2W
June	Carol	KD2NMV
July	Kevin	KC2KCC
August	Robert	KD2NOG
September	Robert	KD2BKD
October	John	KD2NRS
November	Fred	W2AAB
December	Margaret	W2GB
January 2018	Brian	KD2OAZ
February	Bennett	KO2OK
March	Van	W2DLT
April	Aly	ALØY
May	Bruce	NJ2BK
June	Dave	N2AAM
July	Karl and Susan	W2KBF and W2SKT
August	Steve	KA2YRA
September	Paul	K2PJC
October	Skip	KD2BRV
November	Ed	WX2R
December	Tom	N2AAX

By the way, Randy (WU2S) has compiled a binder of all back issues of *The Resonator* and it's located in the club office. Thanks Randy!!!

Back issues are also available on our website.
<http://newsletters.FairLawnARC.org>

October 2019 Near and Far Net Controls

Here is the roster for net controls for the upcoming month as reported by Brian KD2KLN:

Date	Net Control
October 7	NP4H
October 14	W2KBF
October 21	KD2MOB
October 28	WO2W

The Near and Far Net now averages close to 20 check-ins on an average week! Cool beans.

But we need more volunteers to be net controls -- if everyone takes their turn it's less burden on the others. And it's easy. Volunteer --- don't wait to be asked (unless you really want to be flattered).

FLARC Makes An Impact At Recent SKYWARN Training Session

The September 24th SKYWARN session had 13 FLARC members in attendance: Gordon W2TTT, Nancy N2FWI, Ros KD2GKA, Bob N2SU, Jim N2JLF, Randy WU2S, Ed WX2R, Dave KD2MOB, Thom W2NZ, Rob KC2ORS, Karl W2KBF, Susan W6SKT, and Aly ALØY.

Note that SKYWARN will be the topic of our November 15th speaker series as well.



The 2019 FLARC SKYWARN Training Group.
 Missing from the picture is Randy WU2S -- sorry!!

Volunteers Needed!!

As you know, the club has grown considerably over the last year and lot of us do not know the details of the annual FLARC auction (the day after Thanksgiving) and December Annual Meeting and holiday party (December 7), so I thought I would write a brief note to fill everyone in.

The club continues to replace and improve our station equipment. Raising money still matters and our auction is the ONLY fund raiser we do all year, so besides dues and other voluntary contributions this is the only money the club gets.

Therefore we need ALL of our members to step forward to help with the auction and holiday party. Please don't be a by-stander; volunteer and help the club.

For the auction, it's setup, take-down and the actual running of the event. For the holiday party, if you would like to help prepare some of the items for the party that would be great. The club will pay the cost of the items you purchase. The two or three turkeys that we serve usually come from donations from members. If you shop at Shop Rite and get a free turkey and would like to donate it please let me know. Use club's Price Plus Number when you shop. I'll be getting it to you ASAP...

Gene WO2W



Member Count Continues To Grow

Last year's October issue of The Resonator noted that the club had reached a total of 145 members. As we go to press the number is now at or about 160; an approximate 10% increase.

160!!

Congratulations!

Pete (KD2BMX) reports the results of the September 12, 2019 FLARC VEC Amateur Radio Exam Sessions:

Total Number of Candidates served: 2
Congrats to all -- both passed!!

Name	Call	License Earned
Liwen Liang	KD2SRY	Technician
Johnny Kuok	KD2SRX	Technician



Want To Help Set The Direction of FLARC for 2020?

Now is the time to begin thinking about what 2020 will mean for the club. The annual member survey is the starting point for measuring ideas and interests and now is the time to get your input into the member agenda.

If you have questions that you want to ask about the direction of the club, now is the time to do it. Send any topics or questions you want see answered to Ed WX2R at wx2r@arrl.net and he'll work them into the 2020 member survey which will arrive in your mailbox on **December 1**—a month earlier than previous years.

This year's input included special events, the voluntary donation fund, and opening the club beyond Friday nights. Great feedback from NJ'S fastest growing club.

2020 will be here before you know it.



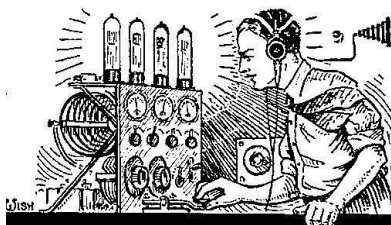


Image from May, 1926 QST, courtesy ARRL

The Way We Were -- **By Fred Belghaus W2AAB**

Fair Lawn's Mystery Station

This month, we take our history lesson in a different direction. It involves one of the most fascinating stories in radio history, and one that hits close to home.

Did you know that there was once a very famous “pirate” shortwave broadcasting station located right in Fair Lawn? It was such a famous station in its day because it was the first pirate station of its kind in the world, and its uniqueness made it the subject of two articles in national magazines, as well as other articles in books and online in subsequent years. These articles are a matter of public record, but they only told part of the story. For the first time ever, here's the back-story.



Our story begins sometime late in 1961. It involves, in total, four young hams from Fair Lawn, three friends of mine, and me. My friends' names were Steve, Dennis, and Barry. At the time, Dennis, Steve, and I were 9th grade students at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Barry's part in this drama would come later.

Dennis and I had been experimenting with 100 milliwatt “Wireless Broadcasters” operating unlicensed, but legal, broadcasting stations on the AM broadcast band under FCC Part 15, from our homes. There is nothing new about this idea. “Wireless Broadcasters” have been available from various sources since the 1930s, and they are still available today.

The Way We Were

The ones we used, though, were models available from Lafayette Radio and Allied Radio as a “Knight Kit.” They were very simple, tube-type oscillator-modulator rigs which could also be used as a simple audio amplifier for a phonograph. The controls were also very simple — a “volume” control and a small trimmer capacitor for adjusting the frequency. I used the Lafayette model, below.

LAFAYETTE WIRELESS BROADCAST/AMPLIFIER KIT

Treat yourself and your family to hours of fun with this Lafayette Kit. Make your own radio programs, announcements, etc., through AM radios anywhere in the house, without wires or extra gadgets. Designed for easy construction by youngsters or adults, it combines in one compact unit a powerful 3-tube wireless broadcaster and an audio amplifier. Clearly written instruction manual makes it a cinch to build. Operates on any frequency between 900 and 1600 kilocycles on your radio dial. It will accept any crystal or magnetic microphone. In addition, it may be used directly as a phono or microphone amplifier. No external preamp is required. Simple slide switch permits either form of operation. Just connect it to a PM speaker (4-16 ohms). Conforms to FCC regulations and is designed to provide high quality voice or record broadcasts.

No license or permit is necessary. Complete with crystal clear instruction manual. Less Mike. For 105-125V AC or DC. Attractively styled metal cabinet. Size 4Hx8Wx4 1/4"D. Shpg. 19 R 0903 Net 12.95

Same as above, but factory wired & tested 19 R 0908 Net 14.95

Crystal microphone for above, Desk or hand held. 5 ft. cable. Shpg. wt., 1 lb. imported. 99 R 4543 Net 1.95

12⁹⁵

Made in U.S.A.

Use it either as a
Wireless Broadcaster or AM Audio Amplifier!

- CLEAN, MODERN STYLING • POWERFUL SIGNAL
- WORKS WITH ALL CRYSTAL AND MAGNETIC MIKES AND PHONO CARTRIDGES
- PLAYS THROUGH ALL AM RADIOS

KB8TAD

Lafayette LA-23 “Wireless Broadcaster”

Image: <https://people.ohio.edu/posr/bapix/LA23.htm>

To be in compliance with FCC Part 15 regulations, our antennas were restricted to 9 feet only, including the feed line. We usually complied with this requirement... but, I confess, not always. Once Dennis and I had our Novice licenses, the temptation to try a 40 meter dipole sometimes became too great to resist!

I had operated under several call letters: WFWB, WFLN, and WGNV. The first was based on my initials, the second, an abbreviated form of the town name “Fair Lawn,” and the third, just because I thought the combination of letters was “cool.”

Dennis’ Knight Kit version was reputed to be somewhat better, although I can’t see why. Their output power was still the same. In any case, here’s what one looks like:



The Way We Were

Dennis had operated several of these legal, but unlicensed stations over a period of years. The first was WDBR, which was made up from “W” signifying “wonderful,” then his initials, then the letter “R” which stood for “radio.” The second, and the most frequently used call, was WJQ. These call letters came from a scene in an old Three Stooges movie. In one scene, one of the “boys” is holding a stethoscope over another guy’s belly. The one being “listened” to says, “Hey, what are you doing?” The one with the stethoscope answers, “I’m trying to get station WJQ.”

Dennis’ third, and final legal, unlicensed station was WLJM. The origin of these call letters is even more bizarre. When I asked their origin, Dennis handed me a pamphlet bearing the name of a “radio school,” which I think was National Radio Institute (one of many such correspondence schools that promised “big money” in radio and TV servicing in those days). Inside the pamphlet, which was an introduction to the school and its various courses, was a section showing a typical AM broadcast station. There was a line drawing of a typical transmitter building with tower in the background. On the building of this hypothetical station was a sign that read, “WLJM.”

Dennis had also built a small, 100 milliwatt FM transmitter from an article in *Radio & TV Experimenter*. It was a simple modulated-oscillator rig, whose frequency could be adjusted by changing the spacing between turns of the tapped tank coil and a one-turn output link. It was crude, but it worked. I bought that transmitter from him, and it became the rig for my station, WGNV-FM.

Several years passed, and most of us moved on to amateur radio activities only, abandoning for the most part our interest in “Wireless Broadcasters.” But not Dennis. His Novice license had expired, and he had no interest in obtaining a higher class license. No, he had bigger plans.

We were now in the year 1965, several months away from graduation at Fair Lawn High, where we were also members of the FLHS Amateur Radio Club. Three of us, Steve, Dennis and I, were in the club room one day during lunch, chatting about transmitters. Dennis, the ex-Novice asked, “I wonder what transmitter would work well outside the amateur bands?”

It seemed like a strange question, but one of us answered that he had experimented with his own rig, a transmitter made in the 1950s, and that in the 160 meter band position, and with a crystal in the 1700 kilohertz range, it would put out some power there, just above the AM broadcast band. He also admitted that he was currently doing that very thing, operating a pirate broadcast station, WKLR, on 1710 kilohertz, running about 10 watts.

Then, he tried another band, using a World War II surplus crystal in the 8 megahertz range. With the transmitter in the 40 meter position, and the crystal installed, it loaded up there, too.

“What about on 6 megahertz?” Dennis asked, “That’s an international broadcast band.” His friend didn’t know. He’d never tried it there because he didn’t have a crystal in that range. But he had tried a crystal in the 7400 range in the 40 meter position, and of course, it tuned up easily there. That was not primarily an international broadcast band in those days, but later, it became a haven for many pirate broadcasters.

A short time after this conversation, there was another meeting in the High School Radio Club room. Dennis the ex-Novice announced that he had acquired the same type transmitter identified by his friend as having coverage outside the ham bands. “I’m going to run some tests tonight,” he said, “Just above 40 meters.” He announced the frequency, and both Steve and his other friend said they would tune in that night and listen.

The Way We Were

At the appointed time, a signal came on, the carrier increasing in strength as the transmitter was tuned up. After another minute or so, a youthful voice began modulating -- announcing that the station was "WGIB." Then, an LP was played of a Rossini Overture, followed by more banter by a different announcer. This time, it was Dennis the ex-Novice at the microphone! He even gave out his telephone number, in an effort to solicit signal reports from listeners.

After several weeks of operation, one of Dennis' Fair Lawn High School radio club friends made a quick phone call to Barry, another member of the club, asking him to come over. Barry's receiver couldn't tune in the 7400 kilohertz range, so he came over to hear the station, too. When Barry arrived, the host hatched a wicked plan. He suggested making a call to the number given out over the air, and pretending to be an FCC agent. Dennis wouldn't recognize Barry's voice, so he'd probably believe the prank was legitimate.

Barry thought that would be fun, so he called the number and rattled off a list of "violations" to the station operator, Dennis. "We know that your station is unlicensed, and that we have located it in the vicinity of Fair Lawn, New Jersey." He concluded by saying, "This is just a warning, but you must shut down your station immediately unless you want us to give you a citation." Then he hung up the phone. After about thirty seconds, the carrier went off, and the two pranksters got a good laugh over it. WGIB would never be heard again.

But that's just the beginning of this saga.

Months passed. We all graduated from Fair Lawn High, Steve, Barry and me going to college, and Dennis starting private studies in music composition, which had been his ambition since Junior High School. After that, we three pretty much lost contact with him. Sometimes, he could be seen taking long walks up and down Route 208 in the middle of the day, as if he had nothing better to do. We sometimes wondered about him, and his welfare. But none of us bothered to find out. We considered him a "lost soul."

One of us did contact him later, though. Steve called him sometime early in 1966, apparently, and this contact would prove to be an important part of the story, not evident until sometime in the future. The new station would have the call letters WBBH, and it would be transmitting on a different frequency, far removed from that of its predecessor, WGIB.

One evening, I tuned my Hallicrafters receiver to a frequency just below WWV on 5 Megahertz. The actual frequency was 4970. There it was, loud and clear...WBBH! The audio quality was pretty good, with enough fidelity to do justice to the recording of Rossini's "Semiramide" Overture that was being played. There was no doubt about who was behind this station.

The recording ended, and the microphone was switched on. Dennis' voice was heard now, identifying the station. "This is WBBH, 5 megacycles shortwave, for the discriminating shortwave listener. This station is operated by the 'Courtland School of Music.'" The program was called "Listening with Fisk."

The Way We Were

Only three of us, including “Fisk,” of course, knew that the name “Fisk” was chosen by Dennis because some of his classmates said that he resembled a teacher at the High School by that name.



Edwin W. Fisk
M.A.

The “original” Mr. Fisk at Fair Lawn High School
Image: 1965 FLHS Yearbook

The “real” Mr. Fisk taught Senior English at Fair Lawn High. There *was* a resemblance between them, but the “Fisk” at WBBH had slightly longer hair, carried a “Dracula” 3-ring notebook to classes and wore an orange ascot. In his senior year, Dennis, AKA “Fisk” preferred to be called “The Impresario.”

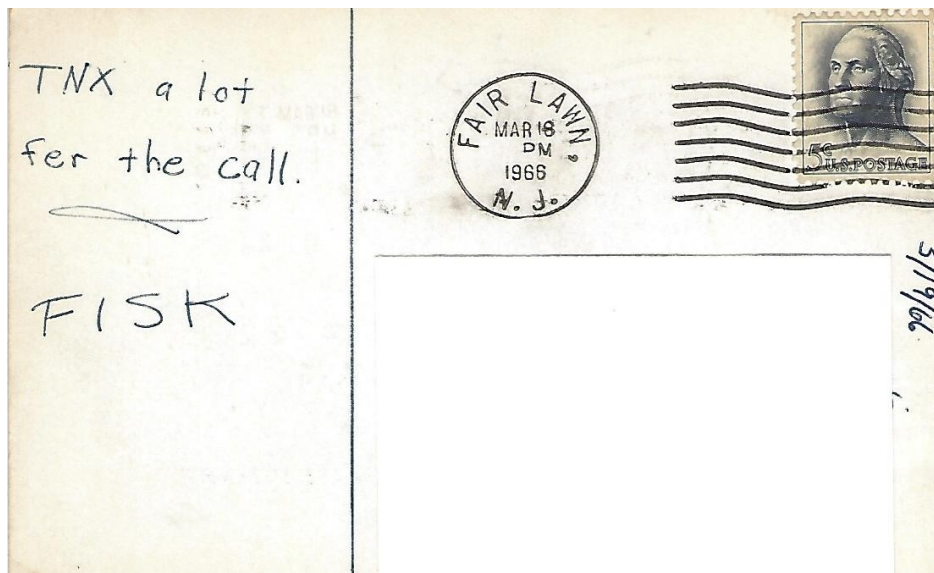
The “Courtland School of Music” was a complete fabrication. The name “Courtland” was an inside joke that referred to the Principal of Henry B. Milnes Elementary School, whose first name was Courtland, and who was often teased because he wore corny black and white shoes. Dennis and a younger friend used to make prank phone calls to Principal Courtland, ribbing him about those shoes.

“Fisk’s” comments between records were heavily influenced by two sources: Nighttime radio humorist Jean Shepherd, and an offbeat German-born comedian known variously as “Brother Theodore,” “The Amazing Theodore,” or simply, “Theodore.” Theodore’s monologues were quite dark, but he had quite a cult following in the late 1950s and early to mid 1960s. [1]

Meanwhile, on WBBH, “Fisk” read some verses from Aesop’s Fables about the fox and the grapes, accompanied by a solo violin selection. Fortunately, I had the presence of mind to make a tape recording of WBBH’s transmission that night. I still have that tape. “Fisk,” then announced a request for SWL reports, asking listeners to write to the station in care of a certain “R.P.O.” box number address in New Brunswick, New Jersey. “R.P.O.” boxes were at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, where Steve was a student. Evidently, he had allowed “Fisk” to use his personal P.O. Box for mailings to WBBH.

The Way We Were

I went to the phone and called my ex-Novice friend Dennis, providing a signal report from a mile away in Fair Lawn, and praising his good modulation, as well as his programming. I was promised a QSL card from WBBH, and got one, too, signed by "Fisk."



I became a regular listener to the station after that, and although I offered no further support, neither did I file a complaint with the FCC or interfere with its operation in any way. Except for some occasional QRM from Radio Rumbos in Venezuela on the same frequency, WBBH was loud and clear from across town, even at night under skywave conditions. Frankly, the program quality was certainly better than what was available on almost all the "legal," commercial radio stations, anyway. In fact, it can be admitted that I secretly hoped that the FCC would *never* locate Dennis' pirate station.

The Way We Were

WBBH continued its regular broadcasts for some months, to the delight of many listeners. By now, "Fisk" had received a stack of SWL reports from all over North America, as well as some foreign reports, many openly praising the programming, and asking for more information about the station. As a former member of the broadcasting industry, I have often wondered what the actual size of his audience was. Listening to it was an entertaining, stimulating experience, especially while typing my college papers, and most particularly when listening to the strains of a sprightly overture by Signor Rossini.

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It was later in that year of 1966 that WBBH's broadcasting career would come to an end. How that happened is one of the many unusual details of this story. A teenage SWL from Baltimore, Maryland, who had been a regular listener, was so excited by the idea of WBBH that he called his local FCC office, asking, innocently enough, how he might obtain such a license himself to broadcast on shortwave.

The FCC responded that there was no such station as WBBH, on shortwave or anywhere, and that he must be mistaken. No, insisted the SWL, inviting the FCC employee to listen on 4970 to prove that there really was such a station. Well, someone at the FCC did listen, and the rest, as they say, is history. This naïve inquiry from the 13 year old SWL in Maryland set in motion an effort by the FCC to locate and shut down the station as soon as possible.

The Commission, even in those days, had very sophisticated direction finding equipment. It didn't take them very long to find the station on 4970 as being somewhere in northern New Jersey. Then, local mobile units were dispatched to narrow down the search. In a matter of hours, Dennis' residence on Saddle River Road in Fair Lawn was visited by FCC agents, who informed him of his illegal operation, and demanded that he shut down immediately. That night, as always, I was listening. Suddenly, and without comment from "Fisk," I heard the carrier go off abruptly, and it would never come on again. This was to my profound disappointment, and to the disappointment of many other listeners.

Two articles by Kneitel [2], [3] claimed that the transmitter was a BFE-50C, made by Gates Radio, one of the leading manufacturers of broadcast and point-to-point equipment. This claim is erroneous. The BFE-50C was an Intermediate Power Amplifier running 50 watts output on VHF only. [4] The actual transmitter was a second-hand, 1950s ham transmitter made by World Radio Laboratories, their model 65A "Globe Scout," running about 35 watts output on AM from a single 6146.



W.R.L. "Globe Scout 65A"
Image: W5DVG qrz.com

The Way We Were

The microphone was an Argonne AR-57, a dual-crystal cheap clone of an RCA 77DX imported from Japan and sold by Lafayette Radio in Paramus.



Argonne AR-57 microphone

Image: <http://microphonium.blogspot.com/2007/03/argonne-ar-57-pill.html>

The antenna was a long-wire strung from the house to a distant tree in the backyard, about 25 feet high. The turntable was an inexpensive record player. The most sophisticated piece of equipment in Dennis' upstairs "studio" was a maritime chronometer, which provided accurate time.

Earlier in this article I wrote that WBBH was unique. What made it so was that although there have been unlicensed broadcasting stations practically since the earliest days of broadcasting, never before had there been a pirate broadcaster on shortwave that did not have a political agenda.

All the so-called "clandestine" pirate stations up until then had been set up to oppose existing governments, condemn (or support) some head of state, incite insurrections or civil wars and so on, and these were mainly operated by guerilla forces or "liberation" movements. WBBH had no agenda, and certainly not a political one. It was simply a way for a teenager to make a little ripple in the ionosphere by playing his favorite music, while making some pithy or humorous remarks about life, and seeing how far his little transmitter could "get out." That's not very different from what we hams do, is it? And that's what he did, nothing more, nothing less. He was having a ball—while it lasted.

What happened to the players in this drama? Well, Dennis, the ex-Novice, received nothing more than a warning from the FCC, and confiscation of his transmitter, crystal, and SWL reports. Had he been licensed, and had "pirate radio" been perceived as a "problem" by the FCC in those days, he would have received much worse: at least, a "show cause" notice from the FCC to "show cause" why his license should not be revoked or suspended, as well as a heavy fine.

The Way We Were

In those days, “pirate radio” was still considered a very minor annoyance to the Commission, and only a handful of unlicensed stations were ever “busted,” but only when there were complaints of interference to licensed stations, chiefly when they were running power higher than a few watts. The FCC would get a lot tougher on such stations in another decade or so. Today, “asset forfeitures,” legalese for fines, can run to more than \$100,000, and even include imprisonment in a Federal Penitentiary. Several states, including New Jersey, can impose additional fines and imprisonment for unlicensed operation.

Steve, the General class amateur who provided the Rutgers P.O. Box for WBBH’s mail drop, didn’t fare as well as Dennis. He had an amateur station set up in his dorm, and the FCC barged in on him there, confiscating his logbook. This helped him, though, because with that, it was proved that he was operating on amateur frequencies at the same time that WBBH was on the air. Obviously, he couldn’t be working people on 80 meter CW and broadcasting at the same time. Furthermore, it was clear from the FCC’s own direction finding efforts, that the station was not located in New Brunswick, as claimed in articles [2], [3], and [5] below, but in Fair Lawn.

Nevertheless, the fact that he had allowed the unlicensed operator to use his mailing address strongly suggested that he was aware of the station’s operation, and may have had a part in it. Steve was served with a “show cause” notice, under threat of license revocation. Fortunately, his studies at Rutgers included both electrical engineering and pre-law, so he was able to argue convincingly in his written response to the FCC that he had no direct involvement with the station. He submitted his reply in a timely manner and suffered no further consequences. Today, he is still licensed in New Jersey as an Extra class.

What became of Dennis afterwards? Sometime around 1970, I was tuning the 2 meter AM band, and I heard a strange signal. The station was quite strong, and transmissions were short, consisting of someone imitating a police dispatcher. They continued for a short time only, and were never heard again. I recognized the voice, though. It was Dennis! At the time, his brother was still a licensed General class with 2 meter equipment, but living away from home while in college, and no doubt he had no knowledge of his brother’s activities.

About one year later, I heard that there was a peculiar character hanging around Fair Lawn with shaved head, a member of a once well-known cult called “Hare Krishnas.” They used to hang around airports, playing tambourines and chanting. This individual had acquired a CB walkie-talkie, and using the handle “Hare Krishna,” sometimes engaged local CBers in conversations. One young lady I knew reported meeting “Hare Krishna,” and from her detailed description of him, it was clear to me who he was. It was Dennis again. What a waste, I thought. I couldn’t help feeling terribly sorry for him, now.

Ultimately, Steve had a long, successful career in law, and is now retired from a prestigious Wall Street firm. Dennis, AKA “Fisk,” AKA “Hare Krishna,” had a long career in music. After seven years of arduous compositional study, he had become an internationally known serious composer, specializing in a form known as “contemporary baroque,” music written recently, but sounding like the classical music of the 18th Century. I’ve listened to some samples of his music online. His original inspiration was the music of Mozart, but with elements of orchestration reminiscent of Haydn and Rossini.

The Way We Were

He was quite prolific. He is said to have written some 600 compositions, including symphonies and operas, many of which have been performed and recorded by European orchestras, and that are available on CD.

Dennis' mother had passed away some years before, but his father's passing in 1986 left him with a sizeable inheritance. By the 1990s, he had moved to Lodi. In 2003, he passed away from a heart attack, and his cremains are buried in Arkansas, where his brother had moved some years earlier. At least, he "found" himself, and left behind an enviable legacy, in spite of his youthful capers.

I wish I could have seen "Fisk" one more time, though, not only to congratulate him on his successful musical career, but for his short but fascinating career as a pirate broadcaster, whose place in radio history is unique. The inner need to communicate something to the world was always present in him. It found its expression first via ham radio, then by pirate broadcasting and CB. Ultimately, it blossomed into a more conventional and honorable corpus of serious work. In that sense, he has attained immortality. How many of us will someday be able to achieve that?

NOTES:

[1] "Brother Theodore," *Vintage Stand-up Comedy*, at: http://www.vs-uc.com/2011/11/brother-theodore-coral-records_1917.html

[2] Kneitel, Tom, "WBBH, The Station With Everything — Except a License," *Electronics Illustrated*, November, 1968, p. 82

[3] Kneitel, Tom, K2AES, "WBBH: The Classical Music Pirate – How it Broadcast For Months Without the FCC Even Knowing it was There!" *Popular Communications*, January, 1985, p. 28

[4] "The Gates BFE-50C Amplifier," *Engineering Radio* blog: <http://www.engineeringradio.us/blog/2011/12/the-gates-bfe-50c-amplifier/>

[5] Anderson, John Nathan. A Can of Worms – Pirate Radio as Public Intransigence on the Public Airwaves, Master of Arts thesis in Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2004. (WBBH reference on p. 59). Online at: <https://www.prometheusradio.org/sites/default/files/acanofworms-1.pdf>

Until next month...

73,

Fred, W2AAB

Tim Duffy K3LR Talks SuperStation!!

The September Speaker Series was enlivened by the first-ever Skype presentation by super contester K3LR. An antenna farm spread out over nearly 20 acres and seasoned contest operators make for a rare opportunity to look at the best in ham radio. Thanks Thom W2NZ, Jim W2JC, Steve KA2YRA and all the others who made this technical extravaganza take place. Hats off to all... a special show!! And special thanks to Tim!!



Live from K3LR – it's Tim Duffy!



A crowd of about 40 was in attendance



Lots of attention and great questions for Tim



Basappa VU2NXX/W2NXX from India visited with his son.



Jim W2JC, Thom W2NZ and many others helped to make this first Skype Lecture a success... thanks to all!



"Boy... I wish I had a station like that..." is what's on everyone's mind.

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes

But when you are soldering, it shouldn't. It is much safer to use a solder fume extractor to prevent the fumes from entering your lungs or eyes. Flux generates the visible fumes seen during soldering. Exposure to rosin can cause eye, throat and lung irritation, nose bleeds and headaches. Repeated exposure can cause respiratory and skin sensitization, causing and aggravating asthma. Rosin is a serious occupational health hazard.

The extractors are available on Amazon and many other retailers. You can even make one yourself for under \$20 with a 120 mm computer fan and a carbon filter pad. There are dozens of DIY fume extractors on the website Instructables.

A more beneficial solder smoke is the podcast series by Bill MØHBR, Pete N6QW, and Mike KL7R. They have produced 213 episodes in this audio series since 2005. Most of the episodes take about building or repairing ham radio rigs and test equipment.

Bill Meara wrote a book about his many projects in radio and electronics called *Solder Smoke - Global Adventures in Wireless Electronics*. It is available from Lulu.com for only \$4.45. One of his reviewers described this wonderful book best by saying: "During his years as a diplomat-ham he has spent much of his free time trying to understand some of the whys and wherefores of the circuits he was building, attempting to build and attempting to fault find when they didn't work. And so many of us have been right down that road! And that explains what this book is; it's a form of diary of Bill's "Eureka" moments combined with an insight into his travels and life as a diplomat.

The technical range covered is quite large and despite all my years in electronics I found many of his eureka moments clarified some of my ingrained foggier thinking. For example, we all know how mixers work. Or do we? How many of us can actually explain what goes on even in the simplest of two diode balanced mixers? Most of us just accept that, by the black necromancy of radio in which we dabble, fearing the release of the magical smoke at the wrong moment, it just mixes and that's that.

But Bill took time to ask, query and eventually, by making notes to himself, come to understand what was going on. And his explanations of mixers and other such subjects are indeed highly illuminating. He explains semiconductor principles (Do you really understand hole flow versus electron flow?). And how about resonant circuits for example? Bill explains these and much more in a refreshing new way along with capacitors, crystals, and a host of other often accepted but often not fully understood truths that we, as amateurs just take for granted. "

73,
Randy WU2S

References:

1. Instructables <https://www.instructables.com/howto/fume+extractor/>
2. Solder Smoke podcast <http://www.soldersmoke.com/>
3. Solder Smoke book - <http://www.lulu.com/shop/bill-meara/soldersmoke-global-adventures-in-wireless-electronics-us-version/paperback/product-10899193.html>



FLARC Proof Of Performance

Why is FLARC New Jersey's most exciting radio club?

Here are just a few reasons so far in 2019:

- Field Day at Memorial Park
- Winter Field Day
- World Amateur Radio Day special event
- Earth Day At Great Falls special event station
- Garretson House special event station
- Memorial Day parade public event
- Portable Day(s) with BARA
- Fair Lawn Street Fair(s) public event
- Independence Day Fireworks public event
- Vintage Night
- "Kids Day" public event with TCRA
- North American QSO Party
- NJ QSO Party
- Foxhunts
- Summer VANFEST at W2DLT
- Field Trip to iHeart Radio

Plus:

- Thursday Night open house and CW class
- Soldering classes
- RACES/ARES public service
- Monthly w sessions
- Projects such as end fed and 2m antennas
- Annual member interest survey
- Weekly Monday "Near and Far" Net
- FLARC auction
- FLARC Holiday Party free to members

Plus:

- Over 45 consecutive months of speaker programs including K1JT in 2019!
- New equipment in the shack!
- New antennas on the roof!
- Coming Soon: Tuesday evening and Saturday morning club openings
- And...a clubhouse!!

That's why FLARC is the best club around!!
Join us with more activities, speakers and projects to come!

The Human-Radio Interface

What's the best HF radio? That contentious question comes up from time to time and I always have difficulty restraining myself from jumping into the technical end of the conversation. The technical end for me includes not just performance specs, but also the human interface. I ran the human factors engineering (HFE) department at a large aerospace company for two years. Applying what I learned there along with 58 years on the air has led me to a judgment I'd like to offer: the human interface designed into some of today's "modern," popular-to-the-point-of-cult-status-radios, is awful.

Consider flying an F-22 state-of-the-art jet fighter in a dog fight. You have by far the best airplane, computers, etc. But for flight controls we will give you the same controls some "state-of-the-art" ham rigs have: a keyboard and a mouse. We might also give you a touch screen that's too small to read and too small to operate with your gloves on. Your opponent has a 30 year-old junk airplane with an analog joystick and analog foot pedals. You are DEAD.

The digital revolution continues ever onward however – the next generation "fighter jets" will likely be unmanned and "fully digital." The air flowing over the flight control surfaces will still be analog however. The world is an analog place.

High Performance HF Radios:

- Newer is sometimes better, sometimes not.
The terms newest, best and modern are not interchangeable.
- Smaller is not better. Smaller is worse unless you are going to carry the radio under the seat of an airplane (along with a separate power supply since it likely doesn't have one).
- Monochrome displays are not better. Unless you are colorblind – then it's a draw.
- Digital is not better than analog, except where it is. It's on a case-by-case basis.
Some digital circuits and some digital displays are inferior to analog ones, others are better in one way or another.

To me, the degree of digitization inside a radio has never mattered. The signal at the antenna jack is analog. The output signal to your headphones is analog too – as are your ears and your brain. The radio is a black box that converts analog RF signals to analog audio signals. *How* it does that doesn't matter. *How well* it does that and how easy it is to operate are what matter.

Meanwhile, digital modes like FT8 are on the verge of altering that paradigm. Headphones are headphones, ears are ears, but the "audio" radio-to-computer interface is starting to be done digitally for digital modes.

As a technocrat, I could go on and on and miss the most important point:

What is the very best HF radio? It's the one that puts the biggest smile on your face. This is a hobby!

But, if what puts the biggest smile on your face is exquisite design, second-to-none performance across all operating scenarios, and a best-of-class human interface then, in my humble opinion, the radio you want, currently, is the ICOM IC-7851. Those cost \$12,500. What? Yes, \$12,500.

Continued on next page.

Around The Shack, continued.

Fortunately, you can have a radio very close to the 7851's performance and first-class human interface for a fraction of the cost. There are HF radios under \$5K (new) that are close enough to make me smile.

Meanwhile, price aside, what makes you smile might be QRP, UHF, boat-anchor antiques or any of the other versions of amateur radio you find appealing. Or maybe what makes you smile is owning the very latest radio with technical performance and/or the human interface of secondary importance. If you are smiling, you own the best radio.

What radio makes you smile?

73,
Hal N4GG



In a Nutshell October 2019.

It's October! Time for punkin pick'in and frosty mornings.

Soon the cold weather will be upon us, so now is the time to get your outside antenna work completed. It's a good time to go over all of your connectors and cabling to make sure everything is properly tight and protected with suitable tape or such as liner-less electrical tape or insulating putty.

Several companies make these products, the ones I use are from 3M. The liner-less tape and insulating thick stretchable high voltage insulation putty (which is in a rubbery tape form) are two that I use and they are waterproof and last for years. To get them off of the connectors just slit them with a razor and peel them off. The other thing you can use is something called Ducseal which is a non hardening moldable puttylike substance. It stays pretty soft for a long time and is good for sealing up holes in a repurposed weatherproof project box for use outside. Remember to leave an outlet hole on the bottom of above grade exterior project boxes to allow any moisture to escape.

73, Fred Wawra, W2ABE

FLARC Again Hits The Road: A Visit To iHeart Radio NNJ Studios

Thanks to Dave N2AAM the club has worked out a visit to iHeart Radio the morning of Saturday, October 19th with additional details to follow.

The tour will consist of the iHeart radio complex in Franklin NJ which consists of WSUS, WNNJ and Max106 radio studios as well as the WTOC AM transmitter in Newton.

Our tour guide will be Tony DeNicola WA2IHZ who doubles as the station manager.

The plan is to visit in the early afternoon (12:30 ET) with perhaps a diner stop nearby to recap our visit.

If you're interested, let Ed WX2R know. He'll coordinate with Dave and we can all put the FLARC travel band back together again.



Congrats To FLARC Accredited SKYWARN SPOTTERS For 2019

The September 24th SKYWARN session had 13 FLARC members in attendance: Gordon W2TTT, Nancy N2FWI, Ros KD2GKA, Bob N2SU, Jim N2JLF, Randy WU2S, Ed WX2R, Dave KD2MOB, Thom W2NZ, Rob KC2ORS, Karl W2KBF, Susan W6SKT, and Aly ALØY



The Bargain A Halloween Story

By: The Old Timer

October is a time of early darkness, and there is a chill in the air. The trees are shedding their leaves, and soon they will be bare, their dark arms stretching out eerily in the moonlight. It won't be long before the year will be on its death bed, soon to be covered in a shroud of wintry white. Strange things happen at night in the last days of October. Unearthly things wander about, things not of this world — and sometimes, humans have the misfortune to encounter them.



<https://www.buffalofire.com/notes-from-indian-country-spooky-reservation-stories/>

None of these things bothered R.F. McBurns. He was an engineer by profession, a “man of science,” logic, and rationality. He knew that only the material world was real, and that everything could be explained by reason and the laws of physics. To believe otherwise, he was certain, was the province of children, the superstitious, and the ignorant.

By day, he worked at his desk in an office of a big tech firm whose efforts were in the design of self-programming, self-upgrading, self-maintaining robotics. The company's objective was to offer state-of-the-art solutions for business that would increase both productivity and profitability by replacing inefficient humans with perfect, never-malfunctioning, undemanding machines. McBurns liked his work. He believed that science and technology could solve any problem, and he wanted to push technology ever forward, towards a perfect, totally predictable and fully compliant world.

But McBurns was not a happy man. He was a widower with no children, who lived alone in a small but reasonably comfortable house. He hated to cook, so he either heated a can of beans for dinner, or bought some fast food on his way home from work. His daily routine had not changed in years, and there were times when he wished he had a bit more excitement in his life. His only real joy was his amateur radio hobby, which he pursued with moderate passion, and with only moderate success. He didn't like talking to most of the people he met on the air unless they were also engineers interested in discussing technical subjects. Anything else was foolishness to him. If they weren't so inclined, he was soon tired of listening to them, and left the air.

The Bargain

Despite his interest in new technology, his station was anything but that. His transceiver was thirty years old, with buttons that sometimes stuck, and that had to be punched several times before they would work. The receiver's gain control was dirty — as he turned it one way or another, loud scratching sounds burst from the speaker. His antenna was just a simple, commercially built trap vertical with four radials lying on the ground.

He never liked the smell of solder, so everything was bought, nothing home made. He lived in the abstract universe of mathematics, and he felt that manual labor of any kind was beneath him. He considered code outmoded, so he only operated SSB, and wanted to try the latest digital modes. On the other hand, he had enough of digital electronics at work, and not enough disposable income to invest in a more up-to-date station.

He always wished he could afford a really good station, or even better, a place out in the country, where he could put up some really effective antennas, and where he wouldn't be bothered by noise from power lines and innumerable electronic devices in the suburbs. A kilowatt amplifier would be a plus, but, alas, his income was just enough to pay his monthly bills and buy enough food to stay alive. These dissatisfactions in his life were well known to members of his local radio club. He had complained about them often enough to have gained a reputation for being a bit of a bore.

One night, while tuning the 40 meter phone band, he stopped to listen to two guys chatting. They spoke about their new rigs, and how much they enjoyed using them. McBurns couldn't help feeling envious of them, as the two went on and on about all the features they had, and how easy it was to work people. As he listened, he imagined what it would be like if he had one of those new Flexomatic 2000s, and a nice big tower with full-sized beams on all the bands from 80 on up.

Feeling a little weary now, he leaned back in his chair and closed his eyes, as the voices of the two people he'd been listening to slowly faded from his hearing.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the front door. It was after nine o'clock, and McBurns wondered who would be calling on him at that hour. He answered the knock with a mixture of mild annoyance and not a little curiosity. Opening the door, McBurns saw a well dressed man standing there who looked about 35 years old. He was a complete stranger.

"Yes?" McBurns said.

"Mister McBurns?" the stranger asked.

"Yes, I am. Who are you, and what do you want?"

"I'd like to make you an offer."

"If you're a salesman, I'm not interested."

"No, I'm not a salesman."

"Okay, you're not a salesman, but who are you, and what kind of offer?"

The man smiled. "Nick is the name, and I believe I can help you."

"Nick? I don't know anyone named Nick. Nick *who*, and what kind of offer?"

The Bargain

"Just Nick, and no, you don't know me — at least you've never seen me before, but I know you, Mister McBurns."

"How do you know me?"

"Thoughts can travel, you know. Intentions can be read by those who know how to read them. I know, for example, that you'd like to have some better ham radio equipment. Well, I can give you everything you want, and a whole lot more."

"Oh? Like what, for instance?"

"You'd like one of those new Flexomatics, wouldn't you? And a nice, big antenna farm on a nice, big, quiet plot of land away from all this suburban noise. You'd like to be a big-time ham, with a big-time signal. Wouldn't you?"

McBurns' face turned white.

"Say, who are you, *really*?"

The man laughed. It was a sinister laugh that sent chills down McBurns' spine.

"See? I *do* know about you. Do you deny that you'd like to have these things?"

"Well, no, but I don't know how the devil you...."

"I also know that you're always telling the guys at the radio club how much you'd like these things, but you can't afford them. Uh, may I come in? I'll only take a few minutes of your time."

Of course, McBurns was skeptical, but at the same time, his curiosity was aroused. Perhaps Nick was a multi-millionaire whose conscience inspired him to do a good deed by writing him a check for a million dollars. He guessed that Nick had found out about his wishes by talking to some of the guys at the radio club. Another possibility was that he'd won a grand prize from the ARRL or something, and Nick was the messenger sent to notify him, and make arrangements for delivery.

Then he dismissed all these ideas, and concluded that this was nothing more than an elaborate practical joke at his expense from somebody who just wanted to make a fool out of him.

"No," the man said, as if reading his mind. "I'm here on quite another mission, and nobody you know has anything to do with it. I assure you, however, that my offer is genuine."

"How do I know you're not some kind of nut?" McBurns asked.

"Oh, Mister McBurns, I assure you this is no joke and I'm quite sane. Now, will you let me in so I can explain the offer to you?"

"Well...All right, but I warn you, I have a revolver. It is registered, and I know how to use it."

The man laughed again. "That won't be necessary. I'm only here to be of help to you. Now, be a good fellow and let me in, won't you?"

The Bargain

McBurns hesitated a moment, then opened the door and let the stranger into his living room. He got a better look at him, now. The man was dressed in an expensive suit that was all black, with a black shirt and red and orange tie with a pattern that looked like flames. His hair was jet black, and so were his eyes, and he wore a small goatee. Otherwise, the man seemed ordinary enough, but there was something odd about his ears.

“Well, all right, you’re in my house. Now tell me why you’re here.”

“Can’t we go into your radio shack?”

“Are you a licensed amateur?”

The man smiled, strangely. “No, I’m afraid not, but I know all about it, and a lot of other things as part of my work. I know how much you’d like to replace your old equipment with something much better.”

Intrigued now, McBurns pointed the way to his ham shack, but the stranger already knew where it was. McBurns followed behind him, a bit taken aback by this unexplained knowledge.

“H-Have you ever been here before?” he asked. “I don’t remember you.”

“No, no,” the man said, without further elaboration. “Yes, I can see why you want better equipment. This stuff is ancient.”

“Well, tell me how I can afford all this new stuff on my salary.”

“You don’t need money,” the man said. “You don’t need anything more than your signature on this disclaimer, which will serve as a no-charge purchase order.”

“That’s all there is to it?”

“Yes. Isn’t that simple? Now, tell me, how would you like the latest Flexomatic model? Not the 2000 model, that everybody has, but the newest model, the 3000, about to be released in a few days. It has a split screen, multicolored waterfall display, full output on all bands from 160 through 2 meters, enhanced, processed SSB, and all the new digital modes with the latest upgrades built-in. There’s even a keyboard and high quality microphone included.”

“Well, that would be very nice,” McBurns said, a bit uneasily.

“I’ll throw in a Big Boomer Amplifier — the one that can run at five kilowatts output from a 220 volt line.”

“I only have one 220 line in the house, for my air conditioner, but FIVE kilowatts? That’s illegal.”

Nick laughed again. “Don’t worry about that. I assure you, you’ll have nothing to fear. I know a lot of people that run excessive power. They’re all clients of mine. Not one of them has ever been caught. I have ways of protecting them, and I will protect you, too.”

“Are you serious?”

The Bargain

"I'm perfectly serious. You really ought to stop obsessing about the details, Mister McBurns. But let me continue. I know you can't put up a tower in this town, or a decent antenna system, so I'll provide you with a bigger house out in Sussex County. I've found the place for you — ten acres on a hilltop location with no obstructions in any direction. There couldn't be a more perfect radio location. There's no local noise out there, either. I've already checked...."

"You have?"

"Yes, I have. I'll include four towers, each one 100 feet high, and every one fitted with full-sized, mono-band beams on all bands from 80 through 10, including the WARC bands. On 160, a four square array with several miles of copper radials, and eight 1,000 foot beverages in all directions, switchable from the shack. On a fifth tower, eleven elements on 6, and forty four elements on 2, all fed with the highest quality, low loss coax. Your entire antenna farm will be fully lightning protected, and installed by only the best antenna contractors. I'll even provide kilowatt amplifiers for the VHF bands."

"Hold on. You mean you'll include ten acres, and a *house*, too?"

"Oh, yes. That's part of the deal."

"This has got to be a joke," McBurns muttered.

"I absolutely guarantee, Mister McBurns, that this is completely genuine. In addition, I can *practically* guarantee you that you'll make 5 band DXCC and the Honor Roll in just a few months. All you'll have to do is announce your call letters on any band you choose, and all the DX will call *you*. There will be pileups calling, but you will be able to easily pick out any station you want, with this..."

The man took a small device out of his jacket pocket, about the size of a smartphone.

"With this, which just goes between your Flexomatic and the linear, you'll be able to hear only one station at a time. It's something some of my people designed in our basement lab. It's been tested and guaranteed. A number of my other clients are using one just like it, now."

"Geez," McBurns said, looking over the small object in his hand. "That's pretty clever. But, wait a minute. I don't want to commute from Sussex County all the way to my office. That's a mighty long ride."

"No, no, you don't have to even be out there. Your station equipment will be out at the antenna farm at your house. You'll have a remote set-up. All you have to do is log in, and you can work your superstation right from here. You just use a laptop to access it, or a Smartphone. You could be at your office desk, and work anything you want during your lunch hour. You could be lounging on a beach, and with a few keystrokes, work plenty of DX. You'd like that idea, wouldn't you? You want the technology to do everything *for* you, and all you have to do is punch some keys. But, uh, you don't have a laptop, do you?"

"Well, no, I have an old PC. It's only an XP machine. I have a flip-phone, though."

"No problem. I'll get you a nice, brand new laptop, or a Smartphone if you prefer, as part of the deal. In fact, I'll give you *both*. Just think of it — you could even rent out your remote station to others when you're not home, or while you sleep. Imagine all the extra money you can make that way."

"Yes, I could use some extra cash."

Then, a frown formed on McBurns' face. "How can all this be? I mean, there must be a catch."

The Bargain

"Why, Mister McBurns, have you no faith in me? I have made offers like this to many, many people, and I have done so for a very long time. I've received no complaints. Everything I have promised has been delivered, exactly as I said it would be. True, some have doubted me, but that's their loss. Those that believe, and agree to my terms, are now happily enjoying whatever I've promised them. They'll continue to enjoy my generosity for the rest of their lives. You can, too. Only a fool would refuse to accept all that I've offered to you without having to pay one cent for it."

"Well... I've got to admit, it's pretty tempting. But, I'm a man of logic and reason. What proof do I have that you'll keep your word?"

Nick took out a Smartphone from his jacket pocket, and did a search of some famous call letters. Every call he chose was that of a big time contest or DXer, with very elaborate stations. Monster beams on huge towers in rural areas, the latest, most advanced equipment, and separate KW amplifiers on every band. Then, he showed McBurns some QRZ-pages, with more pictures of these very successful hams. They had walls covered with certificates they'd earned. First place in contests, DXCC certificates showing more than 300 entities confirmed, 5 band awards, 6 Band awards, even seven bands.

"They're all clients of mine," Nick said. "Every one of them accepted my generous offers, and you can see how successful they are. They're the envy of people like you. Well, now you can be one of them, yourself."

"You really did all that for them?"

"Yes. When I made my offer to them, they didn't hesitate for a moment to sign my disclaimer. They're *winners*, McBurns, and they know that winning is all that matters, in the end. You can be a winner, too, so why hesitate?"

"I've always wondered how some of these guys could assemble such fantastic stations. I've never heard any of them say how they managed to get all of that stuff. I know some of them aren't particularly rich."

"None of them are. They don't need money, you see. They just signed my little paper, and kept their mouths shut. Part of the deal is to keep the source of their good fortune a secret. If they ever reveal how they got it all, I will take back everything, and they know it, and then I'll do things a lot worse. Can *you* keep a secret, McBurns?"

"Well... yes, I can. I mean, I *would*, if I could have all that. All right, I guess I'll sign...."

"Then it's all settled. Just sign this document I have here, and it'll all be yours. The house and land have already been acquired, and your new, remote station will be built immediately. All the new equipment will be delivered in seven days. Tomorrow, I can bring your new laptop and Smartphone

Nick produced several sheets of legal sized papers from his jacket, and an old fashioned, red fountain pen.

"I haven't seen one of those pens in years," McBurns said.

As he said this, the pen slipped out of the man's hand, and when he made a grab for it, the tip jabbed McBurns in the arm.

"Ouch!"

The Bargain

It may have been his imagination, but McBurns' thought that some of his blood was drawn up into it.

"Whoops... Sorry, Mister McBurns, how clumsy of me. Now, just sign here...."

"Hold on a minute! I want to think about this before I sign. I want to read that document."

"I'm sorry, but I can't permit that," Nick said.

"What? Why not?"

"Well, if you read it, the deal is off, and you'll be stuck with the same old junk that you have now. What's more, I will never repeat this offer a second time. Besides, if you miss this opportunity, just think what the guys in the radio club will think, after being offered something as fantastic as this. They'll think you're a damn fool. Won't you trust me this once? What have you got to lose?"

"I'm not sure. You come into my house uninvited at a late hour, you make me a preposterous offer, and you won't even let me read what I'm signing. I don't like that."

"Mister McBurns, *really*, I'm surprised at you," Nick said, and began folding his papers. "Tell you what. Suppose you sleep on it, and after, say, two days to think about it, I'll call again. But when I return on the third day, you must give me a definite answer, or the deal is off, for good."

"That's fair enough, Mister...."

"Hob is the name, Nicholas Hob. But just call me Nick. My friends call me *Old* Nick, and once you sign, you can call me that, too."

"Okay, I'll think about it, Nick... uh, Mister Hob," McBurns said.

"Good. I'll see you in three days, at precisely 9:30 at night."

With these words, the stranger turned and left, and McBurns shut the front door behind him. But as soon as Nick had stepped outside, he thought of another question, and quickly opened the door to ask it. There was no sign of Nick, though. Not even when he looked up and down the street. "That's odd," McBurns said to himself, "He's disappeared."

But something even stranger happened next. An instant later, McBurns found himself back in his ham shack, sitting in his comfortable chair. The change of scene puzzled him. How did he get here? The two guys that had been talking earlier had signed off now, and the frequency was silent except for some weak static crashes and buzzing from a neighbor's plasma TV.

"I must have fallen asleep. What a strange dream *that* was!"

One day passed, and another. McBurns had written off his strange visitor from the other night as nothing more than a weird dream, probably caused by something he ate. "Must have been that lousy fast food," he mused.

The Bargain

But that night, there was another knock at the door, at precisely 9:30. He knew he wasn't dreaming this time, and he trembled at the sound. Determined to solve this mystery, he hurried to the front door.

"McBurns," cried Nick's voice from outside, "It is the appointed time."

McBurns hesitated now, then cracked the door open slightly. What he saw gave him a terrible fright. Standing there outside his door was nothing human. It wasn't quite an animal, either. It was something not of this world, or at least not the well-ordered world that McBurns believed to be the only real one. He quickly slammed the door shut, as his heart raced, and sweat poured from his brow.

It was a creature with pointy ears, a long, pointy goatee that looked like a spike. Its face was villainous, and there was a strong odor of sulfur. On the top of its head were... horns!

Nick, or whatever it was, pounded on the door.

"No, go away!"

The pounding continued. "Open up, McBurns! We've got some unfinished business to transact!"



"I don't want any of it," McBurns said. "I'll stick with my old stuff, and be satisfied with what little I have."

"FOOL!" cried Nick, "You'll die with nothing more!"

"That's better than what *you've* got to offer. GO TO HELL!"

At that instant, there was a flash of lightning outside that gave McBurns quite a start, followed by a terrific rumble of thunder that shook the house, and McBurns stood there for a full minute, his body quaking all over.

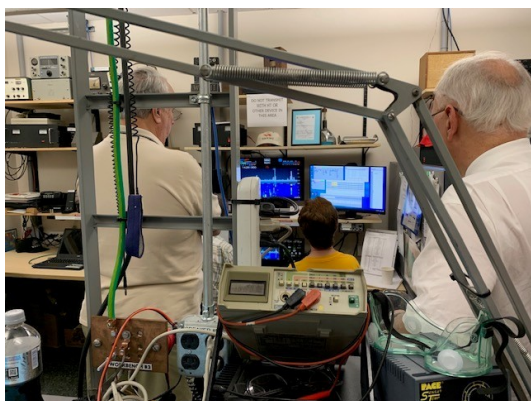
The pounding had stopped, and McBurns once again slowly cracked the front door open. There was no smell of sulfur now, and everything was quiet outside. Nick, or whatever it was, was gone, this time, for good.

McBurns went back to his ham shack, kissed his old, beat up rig, and vowed to never ask for anything more than that again. He made another vow, silently, to never again deny that there are some things that just can't be explained by reason and the laws of physics.

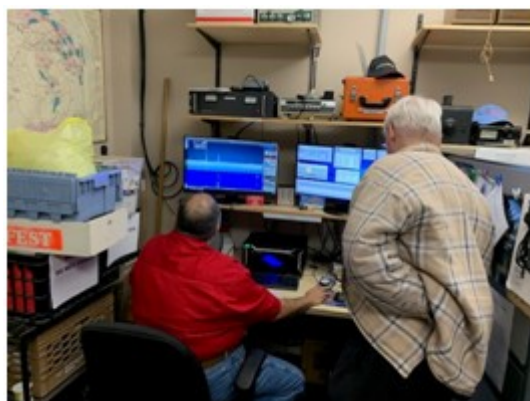
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NJ QSO Party

The annual NJ QSO Party took place on September 21st and FLARC once again took to the airwaves. The band was horrible, it seemed like we were the only NJ station around until 40 meters opened a bit but shouting into static never was more fun. It looked as though our preliminary score just topped 15,000 points but we won't know what it means until around the holidays. A thanks to Fred W2AAB and Jim W2JC who worked at their home QTH and donated their points to the cause. Last year we were tops in the NNJ section; this year, who knows?? Stay tuned.



Van W2DLT and Steve WA2BYX watch
Judith KC3LTM handle a small pile-up



Nomar NP4H and Jim W2JC at position 1 on CW



Fred W2ABE and Judith KC2LTM



Dave N2AAM and Larry WA2ALY wait their turn at the controls



Nomar NP4H and Ed WX2R with their spiffy FLARC shirts!!

A Thanks To All:



New Jersey QSO Party

N2AAM, W2DLT, WX2R, W2JC, WA2ALY, K2KCC, W2ABE, KC2LTM, NP4H, WA2BYX, KD2KLN, KD2QUQ, VU2NXM, N2PRT, and W2IP.

<http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp/>

**George Sabbi WC2GLG Talks
SKYWARN AND THE FUTURE OF AMATEUR RADIO
On Friday, November 15th In The FLARC Speaker Series**

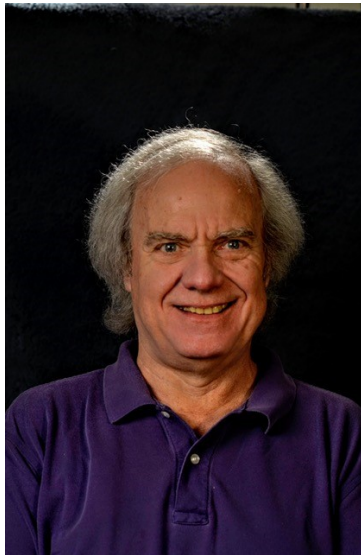
December 7th marks SKYWARN Recognition Day and we are pleased to have Bergen-Passaic SKYWARN Coordinator George Sabbi WC2GJG to discuss the latest with regards to this important topic as part of FLARC's 2019 Speaker Series on Friday, November 15th at the Fair Lawn Senior Center, 11-05 Gardiner Road in Fair Lawn.

The program begins at 7PM and refreshments will be served.

An avid amateur radio operator, George (KC2GLG) has been a licensed (General Class) operator since 2000. His involvement in the hobby was sparked by the close relationship with amateur radio and the National Weather Service, SKYWARN Program.

He has been an NWS SKYWARN Spotter since 1999 and serves currently as the SKYWARN Coordinator for both Bergen and Passaic Counties in New Jersey.

He is a member of the ARRL (American Radio Relay League) and is the current ARRL NNJ Section District Emergency Coordinator for SKYWARN. He previously was the ARRL NNJ Section Emergency Coordinator and an Assistant Director for the ARRL Hudson Division as well as serving as an ARRL Volunteer Examiner.



George Sabbi WC2GLG

Currently retired, George was formerly an entertainment industry professional, concentrating in the Film, Television and Theatre Lighting Industry. He was the founder and Chairperson of the Entertainment Services and Technology Associations Technical Standards Committee, which develops and implements ANSI Standards for Entertainment Industry Equipment as well as Training Certification Programs for Industry Professionals in the Film, Video and Theatrical industries. He was the 1997 recipient of the Entertainment Services and Technology Association's Eva Swan Award for dedicated service to the Entertainment Industry.

Amateur radio and public service are never more important. Our association with those tracking and reporting local weather conditions make us invaluable using our expertise. Come learn more about how the effort is evolving and how you can get involved -- as many in FLARC already are!!

Fair Lawn RACES/ARES Corner

ARES, through the ARRL, is undergoing a 21st century makeover - the timing can't be any better. Please see the ARRL-ARES article linked below.

New ARES plan aligns ARES with the needs of Served Agencies:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/new-plan-aligns-ares-with-the-needs-of-served-agencies>

Please sign up for various nets and activities taking place at the following web address:

<https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/nnj>

The FL-ARES **KB2FLA Net** takes place every Wednesday at 7:00 PM on the FLARC Repeater. However, one Net per month is replaced with a video learning session provided by Randy WU2S. This month, we may have a video session on the 3rd Wednesday - October 16th, in place of the FL-ARES Net. Details regarding the video session will be provided in an upcoming email to our membership. Please join us every Wednesday for any updates, messages or activities which may take place. FL-ARES would like to thank the FLARC for the use of its repeater.

Now, getting back to FL-RACES:

Our next FL-RACES **KB2FLR** net will take place on Wednesday, September 11th at 1920 hours. Please make a note of the time. The Fair Lawn ARC Repeater is used (RX 145.47 MHz / TX 144.87, PL TX Tone 167.9 Hz). Thank you to the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club for permitting FL-RACES for using the repeater.

FL-RACES is part of several RACES groups which operate within Bergen County and from time to time has training opportunities with Bergen County RACES.

The volunteer efforts of our members are very much appreciated.

Our monthly meetings usually take place right after the FLARC business meeting. Please join us for the next FL-RACES meeting.

If you are interested in joining the Fair Lawn RACES, please contact me. You don't have to be a Fair Lawn resident to be a part of Fair Lawn RACES.

For information regarding Bergen County RACES, please go to <http://www.bcnjraces.org>.

Thank you very much. 73. DE Dave KD2MOB

FLARC Proof Of Performance

Why is FLARC New Jersey's most exciting radio club? Here are just a few reasons so far this year:

- Field Day at Memorial Park
- Winter Field Day
- World Amateur Radio Day special event
- Earth Day At Great Falls special event station
- Garretson House special event station
- Memorial Day parade public event
- Portable Day(s) with BARA
- Fair Lawn Street Fair(s) public event
- Independence Day Fireworks public event
- Vintage Night
- "Kids Day" public event with TCRA
- North American QSO Party
- NJ QSO Party
- Foxhunts
- Summer VANFEST at W2DLT
- Field Trip to iHeart Radio

Plus:

- Thursday Night open house and CW class
- RACES public service
- ARES public service
- Monthly VE sessions
- Projects such as end fed and 2m antennas
- Annual member interest survey
- Weekly Monday "Near and Far" Net

Plus:

- 45 consecutive months of speaker programs including K1JT in 2019!
- New equipment in the shack!
- New antennas on the roof!
- And... a clubhouse!!

That's why FLARC is the best club around!! Join us with more activities, speakers and projects to come!



Proposed Bylaw Changes To The By-Laws Of The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club

The FLARC Council has reviewed a set of proposed amendments to the FLARC By-laws. They are presented here in full. Members need to read and discuss them. We will vote on these amendments during our December business meeting and if accepted they will take effect immediately.

The proposed amendments are:

It is proposed to amend the FLARC Bylaws Section 7.2 Annual Dues

Paragraph 5 Associate Members: Eligibility

from:

5. Associate Membership: Eligibility

Applicants for Associate Membership shall be open exclusively to Fair Lawn residents with an interest in the purpose of the organization, bearing proof of residency. Associate Members shall not be entitled to voting rights or any other rights of full membership. No annual dues shall be imposed.

To:

5. Associate Membership: Eligibility

*Applicants for Associate Membership shall be open exclusively to Fair Lawn residents with an interest in the purpose of the organization, bearing proof of residency. Associate Members shall not be entitled to voting rights or any other rights of full membership. No annual dues shall be imposed. **Associate members may not hold any elected or appointed leadership positions. Associate members may not borrow club equipment or supplies. Associate members may operate club equipment only under the direct supervision of a full member in good standing.***

=====

It is proposed to amend the FLARC Bylaws Section 2.4 Nomination of Committees

from:

Section 2.4 Nomination of Committees

In the month of October of each calendar year, the Council shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of two (2) Trustees of the Association. The nominating committee will present its recommendation for the slate of Officers at the November business meeting. After the nominating committee has presented its recommendation, floor nominations will be accepted. Only voting members in good standing will be accepted for nomination.

To:

Section 2.4 Nominating Committee

*In the month of **September** of each calendar year, the Council shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of the two (2) Trustees of the Association whose term is not expiring at the end of the current year. The nominating committee will present its recommendation for the slate of Officers at the **October** business meeting. After the nominating committee has presented its recommendation, floor nominations will be accepted **at this meeting and floor nominations will be accepted at the November business meeting.** Only voting members in good standing will be accepted for nomination.*

=====

It is proposed to amend the FLARC Bylaws Section 2.5 Management of Association Property

from:

Section 2.5 Management of Association Property

Property of the Association may be acquired, used or disposed of in accordance with the direction of the Council. The Council shall not incur any debt or liability or any combination of debts or liabilities, exceeding 25% of the net assets of the Association without a majority voice vote of members present at any business meeting. No debt or liability, or any combination of debts or liabilities shall be incurred or maintained by the Association that exceeds its assets at any time.

Proposed Bylaw Changes For The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club

To:

Section 2.5 Management of Association Property

Property of the Association may be acquired, used or disposed of in accordance with the direction of the Council. The Council shall not incur any debt or liability or any combination of debts or liabilities, exceeding 25% of the net assets of the Association without a majority voice vote of members present at any business meeting. No debt or liability, or any combination of debts or liabilities shall be incurred or maintained by the Association that exceeds its assets at any time.

Section 2.5.1 Quartermaster

The Council may appoint a club Quartermaster who will oversee asset management.

The duties of the Quartermaster are:

- Be responsible for club property and keep accurate records of being checked out/in of the club
- Shall report missing, damaged, unreturned equipment to the board
- Keep maintenance records and schedules on serviceable equipment in club room
- Keep maintenance records and schedules for equipment on club's exterior to include antennas, rotators, cables, towers.

The term for the Quartermaster shall be two (2) years.

=====

It is proposed to amend the FLARC Bylaws Section 4.5 Duties of Treasurer from:

Section 4.5 Duties of Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep the books and accounts of the Association and shall perform any other duties usually assigned to a Treasurer. The Treasurer shall give Bond, if required by the Council. The Treasurer shall make payments only for bills properly approved by the Council. The Treasurer shall co-sign with the President or Vice President all checks drawn on the accounts of the Association. The Treasurer may delegate a limited portion of Treasurer duties for a limited time, to another member of the Association in the absence or incapacity of the Treasurer. The limited delegation of duties of Treasurer shall be approved by the Council. The Treasurer shall maintain a database of members in good standing containing the names and addresses of each member of the Association, along with the date and manner of termination of such membership and shall perform all other duties usually appertaining to the Office of Treasurer.

To:

Section 4.5 Duties of Treasurer

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Larry Makoski W2LJ Focuses on QRP In Highlighting the October 18th FLARC 2019 Speaker Series Program

Larry Makoski W2LJ will feature the October topic "You, QRP and the Great Outdoors." It covers the basics of QRP and portable QRP operations. Larry is one of the hobby's leading QRP enthusiasts and is certain to get you out of the shack and into the field with low-power operation.

Licensed as a Novice in 1978 as KA2DOH, he upgraded to General in 1979. Advanced came in 1983 with a call sign change to N2ELW and Extra was finally realized in 1994 and then applied for W2LJ in 2000. He'd always been a CW operator and while he always dabbled in QRP since Novice days, he went full blown 100% QRP in 2003.



Larry Makowski W2LJ

Larry has been the President of the Piscataway Amateur Radio Club, is now the current Vice President of the South Plainfield Amateur Radio Club and the Secretary of the Electronic Technology Society of NJ (K2ETS - the Watchung repeater). He maintains a blog - "QRP - When you care to send the very least" at <https://w2lj.blogspot.com/>

Going To Hamcation?

Need to get some sun come February?
Then let's go to Hamcation!

The annual event is held in Orlando and the dates for this year are February 7-9th 2020.

Tony N2SIQ is looking to put together a bunch of members who want to head down together.

Touch base with him and he'll be the wagonmaster.

You know there will be snow at FLARC, yes!??



Dues Are Due

It's that time of the year again as dues for 2020 are now being received by our Treasurer, Al WA2OWL.

It's always good to get your dues in early and save us the task of chasing you down after New Year's. And they remain at the same level as they have for many years while the club has grown in size and activities.

This year we renewed over 85% of our 2018 members; quite a feat with a base membership number of around 145.

The FLARC member count is now around 160.

Thanks to you, this is the best club around and you vote your satisfaction with the club by getting your dues in and done for. Al can explain other dues levels beyond basic renewal.

Dues are the lifeblood of the club. An ad earlier in the newsletter points out what's been done this year to earn your renewal.

So renew now while you're thinking about it and give FLARC a great start into 2020!!

**PAY YOUR
DUES NOW!**

October 4, 2019 Meeting Notes

President Brad KM2C called the meeting to order at 7:37PM. Members rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Al WA2OWL called the roll and all officers were present except Randy WU2C. Therefore a quorum was present.

President Brad KM2C asked if there were any new members or visitors present. David KD2SGO and Gary WA2BAU were present as new members.

Minutes from the September meeting were sent to all members of record and published in the Resonator. There were no corrections and a motion was made to accept the minutes by Dave N2AAM, seconded by John W2JLH.

Treasurer Al W2OWL read this month's Treasurer's Report, including new member dues and money from the refreshment can. All members were reminded that the Treasurer will be accepting dues for 2020 from now until the end of the year. The report was accepted by acclamation.

Tech committee, Jim W2JC reported that the CI-V cable at Station 2 is now in working order again. The digital station (position #2) is functioning well again and members are invited to use it for FT-8 and FT-4; those wanting instruction or tutorial should ask Jim W2JC or Bennett KO2OK for guidance.

The PCs at all positions have been configured so that no password is needed for normal login; an Admin password is installed for Tech Committee use. Startup and use instructions are being prepared for all three operating positions.

Continued in next column.

October 4, 2019 Meeting Notes, cont'd

President Brad KM2C indicated that the new repeater antenna was purchased and brought home from HRO in New Hampshire in his car. Volunteers will be needed to climb the tower and replace the antenna.

Jim W2JC said our other club websites are in working order and Google reported 1,086 searches for our website in the past month.

Thom W2NZ and Jim W2JC report that YouTube traffic is increasing and the group thanked Thom for his efforts in editing all the presentations and placing them on YouTube. Thom reports that there were 15 new subscribers for a total of 325.

Thom also reported that although the Skype presentation of K3LR at the Senior Center went well, we will need a better projector for future Skype presentation. The unit should have 800-1200 brightness and must have HDMI/VGA to be compatible with laptops. Brad said he would look into the types available and their price ranges. There was also discussion of how the projector, along with a video camera, could be used to enhance our annual club Auction.

It was noted that W2SUQ came a distance to see Tim K3LR and was initially disappointed to find out that it would be a Skype presentation and not "live." However after the event he was quite elated with how well it went. He felt that it was every bit as good as it might have been had Tim been in attendance.

Ed WX2R announced that he plans to open the club on Tuesday evenings on an ongoing basis for November and December, to allow people to work on projects and/or get on the air. Whether it continues after that will depend on the amount of interest shown by members.

Continued on next page.

October 4, 2019 Meeting Notes

Brian KD2KLN reported that the Monday evening Near and Far Net has operators scheduled for all of October, but he needs net control operators for the entire month of November. Sign up on the whiteboard on the cabinet in the clubroom or with Brian directly.

Our Public Information Officer (PIO) Ed WX2R reported on upcoming club presentations and events including W2LJ on October 18th speaking on QRP operations. November 15th will be KD2GJG on Skywarn. December is Ria W2RJ and in January we have KD2BHG covering the David Sarnoff Organization. February will be Ed himself on the Annual Survey. March 20th is Howard Michel CEO of ARRL. April is Rich W2VU on the 75th anniversary of CQ Magazine. Also, October 19th is a club field trip to the iHeart Radio studios and transmitter site.

Dave N2AAM spoke about the upcoming iHeart Radio trip to the three Sussex, NJ radio stations located on Hamburg Mountain. Those with 4-wheel drive will be invited to head up the mountain for a visit to the transmitter site. Lunch at a local eatery will follow the visit.

Don't forget October 20th is the Fair Lawn Street Fair – sign up with Ed to attend this fun event.

The Auction is, of course, the day after Thanksgiving and volunteers are needed for the sign-in table, managing the sellers and their goodies, assisting the auctioneer, and for refreshments. Sausage and peppers will be featured if someone volunteers to prepare and deliver. The club will pay for the ingredients, as usual.

The annual meeting and Dinner will be held in December at the Senior Center as usual. We need someone to oversee and manage the dinner, as Gene WO2W will not be able to do so this year.

Continued in next column.

October 4, 2019 Meeting Notes, cont'd

Jim W2JC reported on the past NJ QSO party results. The club made 135 QSOs and garnered 11,310 points despite taking time off to train new HF operators and having them operate the station equipment. That is, of course, a major reason for opening the club for this “minor,” low pressure “contest.” Additional points were added to the club score from Fred W2AAB (3,600 points) and Jim W2JC (216 points). A good time was had by all and pizza was served late in the afternoon for the stalwart group. Jim W2JC reported that the club DXCC count stands at 90 countries worked (100 are needed for DXCC award). Fred W2AAB wants to get to 100 by year's end.

Brad KM2C plans to continue SDR instruction courses and soldering courses at the club.

Karl W2KBF (Mr. Fox Hunt, Sir) reports that there will be another foxhunt on October 20th in conjunction with BARA, beginning at the Westwood HS (where the BARA Hamfest is held).

John W2JLH has again volunteered to chair the Field Day Operation for next June. However he wants to begin monthly meetings, beginning in February, if not sooner.

The club has been contacted by HamSci.org about operating a Special Event station at their Space Seminar at the Steam Town Railroad Museum in Scranton, PA. This would be on March 22 of next year; possibly also on March 20 and 21. More discussion on this matter is needed.

Ed WX2R reminded everyone that Winter Field Day will be held again on January 25-26, 2020. Details later.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM with a motion by John W2JLH, seconded by Judith KC2LTM.

Respectfully submitted

Van W2DLT

– interim FLARC Secretary